PERCENT OF NEWBORNS SCREENED FOR METABOLIC DISORDERS

Objective

By 1990, virtually all newborns should be provided neonatal screening for metabolic disorders for which effective and efficient tests and treatments are available (e.g., phenylketonuria [PKU] and congenital hypthyroidism).

Explanatory Notes

In 1985, all 50 states and the District of Columbia had newborn screening programs that included at a minimum PKU and hypothyroidism. However, not every state enforces testing, and detailed data for the percent of neonates screened is not available for every state.[3]

North Carolina does not have a mandatory state testing law, but every hospital in North Carolina routinely tests newborns for PKU, hypothyroidism, galactosemia, and congenital adrenal hyperplasia. Since July 1987, nonwhite newborns have also been tested for hemoglobinopathy.

Findings

In North Carolina, the goal of "virtually all" can be claimed since only children born outside the hospital setting are not tested at birth. Before a birth certificate is issued at a local health department, blood samples are taken for neonatal testing, even if the child is more than one month old.

Related National Year 2000 Objectives

No related objectives.

Information Source

North Carolina: Children and Youth Section, Division of Maternal and Child Health